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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/598,101	04/09/2008	Pascal Paganon	148821-110231	1036
25207 7590 11/10/2011 BARNES & THORNBURG LLP Suite 1700 3475 Piedmont Road, N.E. Atlanta, GA 30305-2954			EXAMINER LAUER, CHRISTINA C	
			ART UNIT 3773	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 11/10/2011	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patent-at@btlaw.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/598,101

Applicant(s)

PAGANON ET AL.

Examiner

CHRISTINA LAUER

Art Unit

3773

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) 15-19 and 21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 20 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 8/22/11 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Jakobsson fails to teach the "dorsal wall consisting of a bead" and a "longitudinal slot". The applicant further states that Jakobsson only discloses a "cross section of a dorsal wall defining the chamber is only illustrated at Fig. 5." Figure 5 does disclose a cross section, but it is noted that the various embodiments also disclose a cross section, for example, as shown in figure 3, 6, 7 (and as respectively described in the Brief Description of the Drawings). It is in these cross sectional views wherein the chamber and longitudinal slots can be seen as claimed. Therefore, the beads or bulges form longitudinal slots between them along the axis as formed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The amendments to the rejected claims have been acknowledged. All prior 35 USC § 112 rejections are hereby withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 8-10, 14, and 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jakobsson et al. US 6102922.

Regarding claims 1, 14, Jakobsson et al. discloses a surgical band designed to be implanted in the body of a patient around a biological organ or organs (figure 1), comprising of a pouch or a tube for altering the flow area of said organ when it is clamped by the band, said band comprising:

a flexible strip (for example, 11 or 27) designed to be substantially closed at its two ends in order to form a closed loop (column 6, lines 23-28), said strip comprising an annular compression chamber designed to contain a filling fluid (column 3, lines 1-8); said chamber being defined by an internal wall (column 3, lines 6-8, element 19; or inner wall 31), lines designed to be in contact with the organ, such as a gastroplasty band around the stomach or esophagus, being clamped and a dorsal wall wherein said dorsal wall consists of a bead having an inner face situated opposite the chamber, said inner face has at least one longitudinal slot (figure 3, bulges) for influencing the deformation of the internal wall with a view to limiting the presence of surface irregularities in the area of the internal wall when the strip forms a closed loop (column 3, lines 24-34).

Regarding claim 2, Jakobsson et al. discloses wherein the internal wall comprises a membrane (for example, column 6, lines 33-34).

Regarding claims 3 and 20, Jakobsson et al. discloses wherein the chamber has a volume that can be adjusted by injecting or withdrawing said filling fluid (column 3, lines 41-44).

Regarding claim 4, Jakobsson et al. discloses wherein the bead has a homogenous property and the longitudinal slot is arranged entirely within the bead (figure 3; column 3, lines 38-40).

Regarding claim 5, Jakobsson et al. discloses wherein the internal wall comprises a first elastomer material and the dorsal wall comprises a second elastomer material (column 4, line 4; column 6, lines 33-34).

Regarding claim 8, Jakobsson et al. discloses wherein the internal wall is made integral with the dorsal wall (figures 2, 3).

Regarding claim 9, Jakobsson et al. discloses wherein the inner face of the bead has a single longitudinal slot positioned substantially at the center of the face (between bulges; it is noted that the prior art must comprise one slot, not necessarily only one slot in the center or on the face).

Regarding claim 10, Jakobsson et al. discloses wherein the longitudinal slot has substantially rectangular shaped cross section (can be considered rectangular with rounded corners, figure 6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6, 7, 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jakobsson et al. US 6102922.

Regarding claims 6 and 7, Jakobsson et al. discloses wherein the first and second materials are elastic, but not explicitly that they are identical with substantially identical hardness levels. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Jakobsson et al. with the materials of ideal hardness levels for each portion of the device, as it is known within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

Regarding claim 11-13, Jakobsson et al. discloses wherein the strip is in the form of a solid tube having a substantially elliptical cross section, said tube being hollowed out so as to form both the chamber and the longitudinal slot (it is to be noted that this structure is disclosed in the prior art as claimed, and although does not explicitly disclose the process, it does not matter how the device is made, but only what the final product structure comprises), said chamber and slot communicating to form a single cavity (figure 3, for example), but does not explicitly disclose where in the cross sectional shape resembles that of a mushroom, whose stem is formed by the slot and the cap is formed by the chamber, wherein the chamber has a circle segment or crescent-like appearance.

Jakobsson et al. discloses the claimed invention except for where in the cross sectional shape resembles that of a mushroom, whose stem is formed by the slot and the cap is formed by the chamber, wherein the chamber has a quarter-like or crescent-like appearance.

It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify Jakobsson et al. with the desired shape of a mushroom, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the form or shape of a component. A change in form or shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Dailey*, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1976). Further, Jakobsson et al. discloses where various configurations can be disclosed as desired (various number of slots within the device) and solves the same problem as the present invention.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lauer whose telephone number is (571)-270-5418. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs: 9:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, *please contact* the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott, at (571) 272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

If there are any inquiries that are not being addressed by first contacting the Examiner or the Supervisor, you may send an email inquiry to

TC3700_Workgroup_D_Inquiries@uspto.gov.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. L./
Examiner, Art Unit 3773

/CORRINE M MCDERMOTT/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3773